

## CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

## INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	USSR (Latvian SSR)	REPORT NO.	<input type="text"/>
SUBJECT	Port of Ventspils	DATE DISTR.	20 March 1953
	25X1A	NO. OF PAGES	2
DATE OF INFO.	<input type="text"/>	REQUIREMENT NO.	RD 25X1A
PLACE ACQUIRED	<input type="text"/>	REFERENCES	<input type="text"/>

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.  
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.  
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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SOURCE

1. A sunken lighter is located 25 meters from the western jetty at the entrance to Ventspils (N57-24, E21-31). The lighter, which had a draught of five meters, struck ground at a depth of five and a half meters during a moderate swell. On entering Ventspils ships have to keep close to starboard, because the east side of the outer harbor is filled with silt and has not been dredged by the Soviets.
2. No gun emplacements, radar, or direction-finding stations were noticed on the two moles. Two or three Soviet guards were posted on the western mole. A double-track railroad on the mole extends along the west side as far as the naval barracks installation, where it turns to the southwest. There were no stationary cranes in the harbor, but there were seven traveling cranes, of American make. The harbor area was guarded by mounted police.
3. On 28 February 1952, 13 Soviet patrol boats were seen in the harbor, one marked 482. They carried two 80 mm or 90 mm guns, one forward and one aft, each of which had front and side shields with a high vertical slot. Each vessel had a four-barreled 20 mm AA gun on the engine room skylight, and a double-barreled machine gun on the quarterdeck.<sup>1</sup>
4. Four small boats without masts or funnels were berthed upstream from the 13 patrol boats. They could not be identified.
5. A submarine of about 750 tons and a smaller one of about 250 tons were berthed at the quay near the naval barracks installation. A third submarine of about 1,000 tons, with a deep stem, was sighted a little way upstream but could not be seen clearly. The 750-ton submarine had an entirely enclosed conning tower with windows and an entrance door on the starboard side, a D/F frame, and a square elevation which was perhaps a snorkel. A detached 70 mm or 80 mm gun was on the foredeck, and on a pedestal aft of the conning tower was a four-barreled 20 mm AA gun. There was a powerful net-cutter above the stern.

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6. The naval barracks installation consists of two three-story stone buildings, each about 100 meters long. Both appear to be occupied to capacity, as all windows are lighted at night. The installation is surrounded by a board fence. 25X1A

[redacted] Comment. Judging from the description, the 13 patrol boats are probably of the KRONSTADT class. Twelve patrol boats, [redacted]

[redacted] were reported in Ventspils on 27 February 1952 (OS-X-1897). Source, [redacted] describes these vessels as very fast and handy and having good sternway maneuvering qualities, but notes that a wind exceeding force 5 requires them to put into harbor. Source states that their draught is 2.3 meters aft, and that their crew numbers 20 men.

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